

**MINUTES OF THE EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017 AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE ECUA BOARD  
ROOM AT 9255 STURDEVANT STREET, ELLYSON INDUSTRIAL PARK,  
PENSACOLA, FL**

**Members present:** Lois Benson, Chairman  
Dale Perkins, Vice Chairman  
Vicki Campbell  
Elvin McCorvey  
Larry Walker

**Counsel present:** Bradley S. Odom

**Staff present:** Steve Sorrell, Executive Director  
Johnny Alford, Communications Center Supervisor  
John Daane, Director of Information Technology  
Tom Dawson, Director of Water Production  
Tim Haag, Director of Government Affairs  
Linda Iversen, Executive Assistant to the Board  
Bill Johnson, Director of Engineering  
Doug Patterson, Risk Manager  
Jim Roberts, Public Information Officer  
Patty Sheldon, Director of Finance  
Justin Smith, Assistant Director of Finance  
Cindy Sutherland, Director of Human Resources and  
Administrative Services

**ITEM 1 – INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Prior to calling the regular meeting of the Board to order, Ms. Campbell provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 2 – CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Benson called the regular meeting of the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Board to order at approximately 2:02 p.m.

**ITEM 3 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Sorrell added three award presentation items to the agenda.

Ms. Campbell added "Creekwood" to the agenda.

Dr. Walker added "Board elections" to the agenda.

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A motion was made by Ms. Campbell, seconded by Dr. Walker, to approve the agenda as presented and amended. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM 4 - PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None.

**ITEM 5 – OPEN FORUM**

(a) Mr. David Suhor, 924 E. Scott Street, Pensacola, FL, addressed the Board concerning the allowance of others to provide the invocation at ECUA meetings. Mr. Suhor indicated he felt any customer that wished to perform the invocation should be permitted to do so, and that it not be limited to just Board members.

(b) Mr. Jim Sterns, 4471 Edgewood Drive, Milton, FL, addressed the Board concerning debris flying out of garbage trucks as they cross the bay coming into Escambia County. Mr. Sterns indicated that he lives on the water and spends many hours picking the garbage out of the water and from the shoreline. Mr. Sterns presented various detrimental situations/conditions that he has observed wildlife caught up in. Mr. Sterns also stated that the debris was coming from the large commercial containers, not necessarily ECUA residential trucks. Mr. Sterns commented that every agency he has contacted thus far has stated that it is not their problem and they do not wish to help.

Mr. Sterns was advised that ECUA does not have any jurisdiction over private haulers; however, his efforts are appreciated. It was also suggested to Mr. Sterns that he seek the assistance of local environmental groups for the clean-up efforts, and to continue to bring this issue to the local officials as well as the State officials.

**ITEM 6 - PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Sorrell made the following award presentations to the Board.

(a) Florida Rural Water Association Certificate of Appreciation – this was for provision of mutual aid through loan of equipment, personnel, time and resources to assist Gainesville Regional Utilities and Jacksonville Electric authority in recovery efforts following the recent hurricanes.

(b) Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) – Silver Excellence Award – this was for ECUA's state-of-the-art materials recycling facility.

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(c) Special District Southeast/2017 – Technology Innovation Award – this award was presented to ECUA's Director of Information Technology, John Daane, for his leadership to update ECUA's IT technologies in preparation for ECUA's new Enterprise Resource Planning system.

**ITEM 7 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Campbell, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of September 28, 2017 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

**ITEM 8 - OPERATIONAL ITEMS:**

(a) **Award of bid – Annual unit-price contract – Sanitary sewer lateral lining and excavated repair**

A motion was made by Mr. McCorvey, seconded by Dr. Walker, to (a) Award the annual unit-price contract for Sanitary Sewer Lateral Lining and Excavated Repair in the total bid amount of \$1,568,410 to BLD Services, LLC, Kenner, LA, as the low bidder, with funding from CIP project RI706; and (b) Approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,600,000 from CIP Project RI700 – Infiltration and Inflow to CIP Project RI706 – Sanitary Sewer Lateral Lining and Excavated Repair to be used to pay BLD Services, LLC for completed work. Motion carried 5-0.

(b) **Award of bid – Bayou Marcus WRF UV disinfection replacement**

A motion was made by Mr. McCorvey, seconded by Dr. Walker, to (a) Waive the minor mathematical error in their bid and award a contract to WDR Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Pensacola, Florida, the low bidder, in the total amount of \$1,353,825.29, for the Bayou Marcus WRF UV Disinfection Replacement, with funding from CIP Project RS234; and (b) Authorize a budget transfer in the amount of \$500,000.00 from Lift Station Upgrades – CIP RS121 to Bayou Marcus WRF UV Disinfection Replacement – CIP RS234. Motion carried 5-0.

(c) **Annual contract – System 1000 Grease Control Program**

A motion was made by Dr. Walker, seconded by Mr. McCorvey, to waive competitive bidding based on our testing experience, excellent results of the trials conducted in our collection system, and the sole-source availability of this proprietary product, and approve a contract for one year, with the option to renew for two additional one-year contracts with no change in price, with

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Enviro-Tech America, Inc., for the purchase of the System 1000 Grease Control System for 20 lift station locations at a cost of \$355 per lift station per month, or an annual cost of \$4,260 per lift station (total estimated program cost of approximately \$85,200), with funding from the appropriate budget line item. Motion carried 5-0.

(d) Annual renewal maintenance agreement – Superion software

A motion was made by Ms. Campbell, seconded by Mr. McCorvey, to waive the competitive bidding process for all of the reasons stated and authorize the Executive Director to renew the software maintenance contract with Superion, at a cost of \$122,992.78 with funds allocated from the appropriate budget line item. Motion carried 5-0.

(e) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Computer replacement

A motion was made by Mr. McCorvey, seconded by Dr. Walker, to waive the competitive bidding process based on GSA (or better) pricing, and approve a sole source purchase of new SCADA computers from QEI for the price of \$226,404, with funds from CIP Project CW025. Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM 10 - INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

None.

ITEM 11 - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sorrell provided the following:

- (a) Staff, working with the ECUA financial advisor, has been able to lock-in the bank loan for the Capital Improvement Program at 2.59% and he will be bringing an item to the Board next month.
- (b) The bagged compost operation is going very well, as is the compost operations which are being expanded.

In response to a question from Chairman Benson concerning yard debris resulting from recent storms, Mr. Sorrell stated that ECUA is just about caught up.

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- (c) The due diligence period for the Navy Boulevard property has passed and the closing on the property is expected in the next few weeks.
- (d) Work is progressing with the Guillemard Tank and walls will be coming up by December.
- (e) The generator failure at the Pensacola Beach wastewater treatment plant was the result of federally required low sulfur diesel fuel which caused a sludge build up in the fuel. After further research, the attorney has advised that staff can utilize a higher sulfur diesel fuel in its generators since the federal law would not apply to off-road generators, which would eliminate the sludge problem.

Dr. Walker indicated he had provided an article to Mr. Sorrell regarding damage to water lines by storms and requested that Mr. Sorrell provide a copy of the article to the other Board members.

**ITEM 12 - ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Odom indicated that he would bring some proposed policy changes regarding the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) program to the Board at its meeting next month. Also, they are looking at codifying the policy for sewer relief and would be bringing that forward as well.

Mr. Odom also reported that ECUA prevailed in an employee discrimination case.

**ITEM 13 - UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- (a) Creekwood (Campbell)

Mr. Odom and Mr. Sorrell stated their support for the project and provided a verbal status report, outlining what has been occurring with attempts to resolve the legal issues regarding the Creekwood private lift station.

Mr. Odom stated that with regard to the Interlocal Agreement with the County, it is his opinion, and that of staff, that the Board should go with Tab A to the staff recommendation. Further, Mr. Odom outlined the changes that were made to the County-approved agreement without ECUA's input and without regard as to how those changes would impact ECUA and the contractors.

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A motion was made by Ms. Campbell, seconded by Dr. Walker, to approve the Agreement attached hereto at Tab A, between ECUA, the County, and the Creekwood Homeowners' Association of Pensacola, Inc. which was previously negotiated and approved by the County's staff and legal advisors, and authorize the Executive Director to execute it once all needed easements to construct the work contemplated therein have been secured for the wastewater system improvement project within the Creekwood Subdivision.

An amendment to the motion was made by Ms. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Perkins, to authorize Executive Director and the ECUA attorney to negotiate the concerning legal points if acceptable changes need to be made, and execute the agreement.

The vote on the amendment carried 5-0 and the vote on the motion as amended carried 5-0.

**ITEM 14 - NEW BUSINESS**

**(a) Board elections (Walker)**

Dr. Walker commented that with the Board elections coming up next month, and recent actions regarding issues such as the rates increases and Capital Improvement Fee, he hoped the members would consider election of a Chairman that has not hesitated in consistently voting for what is right overall for the customers and organization. Further, Dr. Walker indicated he would be nominating Mr. McCorvey for Chairmanship for the next year.

Mr. Perkins commented that no single Board member should be singled out for serving as Chairman, nor should a litmus test of sorts be in place for elections. Chairman Benson commented supporting the statement by Mr. Perkins.

**ITEM 15 - BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

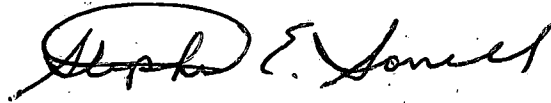
Mr. Perkins commented that he feels Mr. Suhor's recollection of past actions at Board meetings is a little a skewed. Mr. Odom commented that he did not want the Board to view his silence to Mr. Suhor's comments as his being in agreement with Mr. Suhor's comments, as that is not the case.

**ITEM 16 - ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting of the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Board, Chairman Benson declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:18 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,



Stephen E. Sorrell  
Executive Director and  
Secretary

APPROVED BY THE ECUA BOARD  
IN REGULAR SESSION ON 11/16/17.

- ☒ Without corrections/amendments.
- ☐ With corrections/amendments being: